(d) For effective implementation of RGGVY, the following steps have been taken:

- Government of India has set up an inter-Ministerial monitoring Committee which periodically meets to sanction projects and review progress of implementation.
- States have been advised to set up district committees to monitor the progress of rural electrification works. Most of the States have notified formation of district committees.
- The Government of India as also Rural Electrification Corporation (REC), the nodal agency for RGGVY, conduct frequent review meetings with all the stakeholders; the concerned State Governments, State power utilities and implementing agencies for expeditious implementation of the scheme on the agreed schedules.
- For speedier and effective implementation of projects, their execution has been taken up on turnkey basis.
- To ensure qualitative execution of rural electrification works, a three tier quality control mechanism has been enforced under RGGVY.
- Grant amount of BPL connection has been enhanced to Rs.2200/- from Rs. 1500/-.
- To take care of the cost escalation, cost norms for village electrification have been revised upward.
- National Workshop was organized in collaboration with IEEMA to ensure timely supply of materials.
- Fund flow has been streamlined by use of e-transfer, to avoid parking of funds.
- Chief Ministers have been requested for expeditious implementation of the scheme.
- Chief Ministers and Chief Secretaries of State Governments have been requested to constitute Coordination Committee under Chairmanship of Chief Secretary to address State level issues for expeditious implementation of the scheme.

Pending court cases

*191. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO:
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large number of cases are pending with various High Courts and the Supreme Court;

(b) if so, whether Government's decision to increase the working hours would help in reducing the huge backlog of court cases;

(c) whether experts have suggested that the immediate need is to change the mindset and the work culture;

(d) if so, what are the views expressed by experts in reducing the backlog of court cases; and

(e) the steps being considered by the Central Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ): (a) Yes, Sir. As per latest available information, 48,838 cases are pending in the Supreme Court of India as on 31.8.08. The

number of cases pending in the High Courts was 38,82,074 as on 30.6.2008.

(b) The working days in the Supreme Court and High Courts are regulated by the rules framed by the respective Courts.

(c) This Ministry is not aware of any such suggestion.

(d) and (e) After identifying some of the more important factors responsible for pendency of cases in courts, various Committees and Commissions have made suggestions/recommendations for reducing backlog of court cases which include increasing of judges strength, providing financial support for construction of court buildings, computerization of courts, reduction in vacations in courts and adopting Alternating Dispute Redressal Mechanism etc. Government has already increased the sanctioned strength of judges in the High Courts. Schemes for Development of Infrastructural Facilities for Judiciary and computerization for all the Courts in the country are being implemented. Fast Track Courts have been instituted for speedy disposal of long pending Sessions cases and the cases involving undertrials in jails. Alternative modes of disposal including mediation, negotiation and arbitration have been encouraged. With a view to ensuring expeditious disposal of cases, the Civil Procedure Code and Criminal Procedure Code have been amended and the concept of 'Plea Bargaining' has been introduced. Supreme Court has reduced summer vacation from 8 weeks to 7 weeks.

Non-availability of basic facilities in rural schools

*192. SHRIMATI SUPRIYA SULE: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Government has expressed its serious concern over the non-availability of toilets and potable water in all the rural schools in the country;

(b) whether Government has decided that it is compulsory that teachers, toilets, potable water and other necessary facilities are made available to all the rural schools in the country;

(c) if so, what is the percentage of schools, at present, where there are no such facilities; and

(d) whether Government has made it compulsory that all the schools, especially in rural areas, should have such facilities before starting operation of schools?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH): (a) to (d) As per District Information System of Education (DISE) 2007-08 data, national Pupil Teacher Ratio is 34:1 at primary level and 31:1 at upper primary level against a norm of 40:1. Under the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) programme, additional teachers are provided where elementary schools have a PTR of more than 40:1. Till 2008-09, 12,28 lakh teachers have been sanctioned under the programme.

The SSA programme convergences with the Total Sanitation Campaign and Drinking Water Mission of the Ministry of Rural Development for accelerated coverage of toilets and drinking water facilities in rural elementary schools. So far 2.65 lakh toilets and 1.93 lakh drinking water facilities have been sanctioned under the SSA programme.

Return on investment made in SEBs

*193. SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state: